



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 9849



Offered by:

REP. RITTER, 1st Dist.
REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.
REP. FARRAR, 20th Dist.
REP. PARIS, 145th Dist.
REP. LEEPER, 132nd Dist.
REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.

REP. MCGEE T., 116th Dist.
REP. WELANDER, 114th Dist.
SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.
SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist.
SEN. MCCRORY, 2nd Dist.
SEN. MAHER, 26th Dist.

To: House Bill No. 5003

File No. 198

Cal. No. 136

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION FUND."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2028,
4 the Office of Early Childhood shall establish and maintain an electronic
5 portal available through a mobile application and through the office's
6 Internet web site, for purposes of providing information concerning the
7 availability of slots in early childhood programs in the state and
8 collecting data for analysis by the office.

9 (b) The portal shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) A means
10 for parents and guardians to submit information for resource referral
11 and enrollment purposes in an early childhood program, (2) an ability

12 for the office to manage payments to early childhood programs, (3)
13 information on the availability of slots in early childhood programs,
14 including the availability of free or subsidized slots, in each town and
15 on a regional and state-wide basis, (4) a means for early childhood
16 program providers to enter slot availability and enrollment information
17 into the portal efficiently, (5) access to the portal through a mobile
18 application or Internet web site, and (6) opportunities for families to
19 apply for child care subsidies or other assistance.

20 (c) In developing the portal, the office shall (1) enter into memoranda
21 of understanding with other state agencies for the purpose of linking
22 data collected by such other state agencies with the functions of the
23 portal, and (2) seek input from early childhood programs and parents
24 and guardians of children enrolled in early childhood programs in the
25 state.

26 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2027, the Office of
27 Early Childhood shall implement a prospective payment system for the
28 child care subsidy program, established pursuant to section 17b-749 of
29 the general statutes, as amended by this act, in accordance with federal
30 law.

31 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 17b-749 of the general statutes is
32 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
33 *2025*):

34 (g) All licensed child care providers and those providers exempt from
35 licensing shall provide the office with the following information in order
36 to maintain eligibility for reimbursement: (1) The name, address,
37 appropriate identification, Social Security number and telephone
38 number of the provider and all adults who work for or reside at the
39 location where care is provided; (2) the name and address of the child's
40 doctor, primary care provider and health insurance company; (3)
41 whether the child is immunized and has had health screens pursuant to
42 the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment
43 Services Program under 42 USC 1396d; [and] (4) the number of children

44 cared for by the provider; (5) the type of business entity of the provider;
45 and (6) the names of all officers, directors and owners of the provider
46 or, in the case of an affiliate of the provider that is receiving payments
47 under this section, the names of all officers, directors and owners of such
48 affiliate.

49 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025, the
50 Commissioner of Early Childhood shall enter into a data sharing
51 agreement with the Children's Funding Project for the purpose of the
52 creation of a fiscal map that shows a comprehensive view of state
53 funding and spending for children in the state. The commissioner shall
54 not be required to enter into such agreement under this section if the
55 Children's Funding Project requires a direct fee for its services.

56 Sec. 5. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood, in
57 collaboration with the Insurance Department and the Attorney General,
58 shall conduct a joint study regarding the prevalence, appropriateness
59 and affordability of liability insurance for child care centers and family
60 child care homes, as such terms are described in section 19a-77 of the
61 general statutes. Such joint study shall include, but need not be limited
62 to, an assessment of the factors that have given rise to increasing liability
63 insurance costs. Not later than July 1, 2026, the office shall submit a
64 report on the findings of such joint study, and any recommendations, to
65 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
66 cognizance of matters relating to children, education and insurance, in
67 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

68 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Early Childhood, in
69 consultation with the Department of Emergency Services and Public
70 Protection, shall develop a report on background checks for early
71 childhood educators. Such report shall include, but need not be limited
72 to, (1) an examination of (A) the average processing time for background
73 checks for early childhood educators, (B) strategies to improve the speed
74 at which background checks are processed, and (C) strategies to
75 improve the convenience and ease with which early childhood
76 educators are able to be fingerprinted and to submit background check

77 materials for processing, and (2) an assessment of whether it is possible
78 for an early childhood educator to share his or her fingerprint and
79 background check results with multiple prospective employers. Not
80 later than July 1, 2026, the office shall submit a report on its findings,
81 and any recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the
82 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
83 education and public safety, in accordance with the provisions of section
84 11-4a of the general statutes.

85 Sec. 7. Section 19a-87b of the general statutes is amended by adding
86 subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

87 (NEW) (m) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2029,
88 inclusive, the Commissioner of Early Childhood may issue, upon
89 receipt of a proper application and following an inspection and
90 approval by the office, a large family child care home endorsement to
91 any family child care home licensee in the state who was issued such
92 license prior to June 30, 2025. Such endorsement shall permit such
93 licensee to maintain a family child care home, in accordance with the
94 provisions of this chapter, that provides care for up to twelve children,
95 including the licensee's own children, provided such family child care
96 home is operated and staffed in accordance with regulations adopted by
97 the office and, in the case when such licensee is providing care for over
98 nine children, with the presence and assistance of an additional assistant
99 or substitute staff member approved by the commissioner. The
100 commissioner shall not issue more than thirty such endorsements in any
101 year under this subsection. The family child care home for which such
102 endorsement has been issued shall have a minimum of thirty-five
103 square feet of useable indoor space and seventy-five square feet per
104 child of outdoor space. An application for an endorsement under this
105 subsection shall include a copy of the current fire marshal certificate of
106 compliance with the Fire Safety Code, and written verification of
107 compliance with local zoning and building requirements and local
108 health ordinances. The commissioner may require an applicant for an
109 endorsement under this subsection to comply with additional

110 conditions relating to the health and safety of the children who will be
111 served in such facility. Any endorsement issued under this subsection
112 shall expire on June 30, 2029, except the commissioner may suspend or
113 revoke any such endorsement at any time in accordance with the
114 provisions of section 19a-87e.

115 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the fiscal year ending June 30,
116 2026, the Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the
117 Commissioner of Social Services, shall, within available appropriations,
118 develop and administer a one-year pilot program to disseminate
119 information concerning child care services, as defined in section 19a-77
120 of the general statutes, early intervention programs and financial
121 assistance programs available to expectant mothers receiving prenatal
122 care, as defined in section 19a-912 of the general statutes, in hospitals
123 and from providers of obstetric services in the state.

124 (b) In developing the pilot program, the Commissioner of Early
125 Childhood shall develop (1) criteria for the selection of hospitals and
126 providers of obstetric services that provide prenatal care in
127 geographically diverse areas of the state, with preference given to
128 hospitals and providers that serve a high proportion of low-income
129 families and are located in areas where the availability of child care
130 services does not meet the demand for such services; (2) requirements
131 for the dissemination of the documents compiled pursuant to subsection
132 (c) of this section to patients receiving prenatal care, including, but not
133 limited to, a requirement that such documents shall be provided during
134 the first trimester of pregnancy whenever possible; and (3) a system for
135 tracking and reporting the number of such documents provided to
136 patients receiving care from each selected hospital and provider each
137 month.

138 (c) The Commissioner of Early Childhood shall select three hospitals
139 and two providers of obstetric services for participation in the pilot
140 program using the criteria developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this
141 section, and compile documents for dissemination to patients receiving
142 prenatal care from each such hospital or provider. Such documents shall

143 be tailored to each individual hospital or provider and contain the
144 following information: (1) A list of all child care centers, group child care
145 homes and family child care homes, as such terms are described in
146 section 19a-77 of the general statutes, located in the municipalities in
147 which the majority of prenatal patients served by such hospital or
148 provider live, including contact information and Internet web site
149 addresses, if available, for each such center and home; (2) a list of early
150 intervention programs administered by the Office of Early Childhood,
151 including descriptions of such programs and contact information and
152 Internet web site addresses, if available, for each such program; and (3)
153 information concerning financial assistance programs available to
154 families, including instructions on how to apply to such programs.

155 (d) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Early
156 Childhood shall electronically disseminate the documents compiled
157 pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to the administrator of each
158 hospital and office manager or other responsible party employed by
159 each provider selected for participation in the pilot program. During the
160 period beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2026,
161 a copy of the documents tailored to a participating hospital or provider
162 shall be distributed to each patient receiving prenatal care from such
163 hospital or provider.

164 (e) During the period beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on
165 December 31, 2027, the Commissioner of Early Childhood shall, in a
166 form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, administer a survey
167 to each parent or guardian that enrolls a child in (1) child care services,
168 or (2) an early intervention program administered by the Office of Early
169 Childhood, to determine whether such parent or guardian enrolled in
170 such services or program as a result of the pilot program administered
171 pursuant to this section. The completion of such survey shall be
172 optional.

173 (f) Not later than June 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Early Childhood
174 shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
175 of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General

176 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children. Such report
177 shall include an analysis of the efficacy of the pilot program
178 administered pursuant to this section and any recommendations for
179 legislation to expand such program or implement such program on a
180 state-wide and permanent basis."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-749(g)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	19a-87b(m)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section